



# MEDIA RELEASE

STATE OF TENNESSEE  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **TENNESSEE REHABILITATION CENTER GRADUATES TAKE STEPS TO MORE INDEPENDENT LIVES**

*STUDENTS FROM EVERY CORNER OF THE STATE ARE WORKING HARD TO GO TO WORK*

SMYRNA, Tenn.— More than 80 students with significant disabilities donned cap and gown on Friday, December 16 and proudly walked across the stage at the Tennessee Rehabilitation Center (TRC) in Smyrna. The men and women, who represent 33 counties across Tennessee, are all filled with the same determination and drive to enter or re-enter the workforce and better their lives. Their studies and hard work in programs like Building Maintenance, Business Education Training, Food Service, Custodial Training and Warehouse Training have enabled them to do just that. With certificate in hand, these new graduates are now moving on to the next stage in their lives.

“The Department of Human Services is committed to working with individuals with disabilities and teaching them the skills they need to become successfully employed in their own communities,” said Assistant Commissioner for Rehabilitation Services Andrea Cooper. “The services offered at TRC truly do assist individuals in achieving their highest level of functioning so they can live and work as independently as possible.”

The lives and stories of the new graduates are as diverse as the communities from which they come. A 54-year old wife, mother and grandmother from Hixson recently completed the Vision Impairment Services program. Debra Gregory, who is blind, is not letting her disability get in the way of achieving her goal of operating and managing a food service and vending facility.

A 22-year old woman from Maryville who suffered leukemia as a child, a bone marrow transplant and a stroke, all by the age of 10, has overcome tremendous challenges. Barbara McCulloch successfully completed the Job Objective and Behavioral Services (JOBS) program at the TRC in ten weeks and will return to a job at a yogurt shop and deli in Blount County.

The Tennessee Rehabilitation Center is a state-operated comprehensive rehabilitation facility. It is one of only nine such centers in the nation. Services are provided on campus, and the majority of clients live on site while receiving services. The length of programs offered at TRC varies, depending upon the individual client's interest, abilities and needs. TRC is part of the Division of Rehabilitation Services within the Tennessee Department of Human Services. TRC serves more than 1,000 Tennesseans with disabilities each year. Since opening its doors in 1977, TRC has served more than 25,000 individuals. For more information about the Division of Rehabilitation Services, please visit:

<http://www.state.tn.us/humanserv/rehabilitation.htm>

The following page contains a list of TRC graduates by county:

CITIZENS PLAZA, 15TH FLOOR  
400 DEADERICK STREET  
NASHVILLE, TN 37248  
615.313.4700

First Name	Last Name	County of Residence
Deaddrick	Booker	Anderson
Ronnie	George	Blount
Barbara	McCulloch	Blount
Challa	Alcorn	Coffee
Josh	Allison	Coffee
Jessica	Klyce	Crockett
Melissa	Brown	Cumberland
Ryan "Zack"	Collier	Cumberland
Anthony	Alsup	Davidson
Stephanie	Canfield	Davidson
Christy	Crance	Davidson
Antonio	Hereford	Davidson
Jason	Hunt	Davidson
Justin	Hunt	Davidson
Courtney	Jones	Davidson
Jason	Lester	Davidson
Tim	McCoy	Davidson
Christopher	Plemons	Davidson
Kenneth	Poole	Davidson
Patrick	Ruth	Davidson
Michael	Simpson	Davidson
Dennis	Partin	Franklin
Melissa	Brown	Gibson
Claudette	Luten	Gibson
Michael	Summers	Gibson
Brittany	Wall	Gibson
Fantasia	Hackler	Greene
Jonathan	Evans	Hamilton
Debra	Gregory	Hamilton
Ryan	Snow	Hamilton
Shimere	Tharp	Henry
Jessica	Andrews	Knox
Mickell	Nevels	Knox
Ashley	Avery	Lake
Melissa	Kimbrel	Lawrence
Rachel	Malone	Lincoln
Danny	Bargett	Maury
Heide	Reed	Maury
Kimberly	Adams	Montgomery
Kyle	Dunaway	Montgomery
Kim	Tabuada	Morgan
Amanda	Taylor	Obion
David	Becerra	Overton
Lindsay	Richardson	Perry
Bill	Sanders	Perry

Jaquetta	Bright	Polk
Anthony	Spears	Putnam
Alex	Dakouvanos	Putnam
Carl	Ferrer	Putnam
Alfredo "Freddie"	Lopez	Putnam
Marco	Barbee	Robertson
Jeff	Thomas	Robertson
Joejoe	Collier	Rutherford
Melissa	Craft	Rutherford
Dorcas	Highers	Rutherford
Levi	Nichols	Rutherford
Denzil	Pollard	Rutherford
Jami	Ross	Rutherford
Jerry	Smith	Rutherford
LiaCharmaine	Walker	Rutherford
Tiffany	Williams	Rutherford
Jeromy	Broom	Shelby
Chris	Edwards	Shelby
J'Vonne	Harris	Shelby
James	Jones	Shelby
Michael	Messer	Shelby
DaMarcus	Taylor	Shelby
T'Shad	Wright	Shelby
Dustin	Harper	Sullivan
Megan	Allen	Sumner
Marty	McCullough	Sumner
Jeffery	Riales	Tipton
Amanda	Craig	Tipton
Timothy	Tomlinson	Washington
Bradley	Lewis	White
Autry	Dennis	Williamson
Brandon	Gaines	Williamson
Jason	Hughes	Williamson
Lovella	Boggs	Williamson
Steven	Greiner	Williamson
Keith	Ahearn	Wilson
Randell	Dillard	Wilson
Michael	Lewis	